

## **2014 Deputy Administrator's Safeguarding Award:**

### **Honorable Mention –**

#### **CPHST Beltsville Lab ISO Accreditation Team**

As the culmination of an ambitious initiative, the PPQ CPHST Beltsville Laboratory achieved ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation for plant pathogen confirmatory diagnostics. The lab has become the first regulatory plant diagnostic lab in the U.S. to achieve the highest level of accreditation. This work supports PPQ's need for trustworthy pest detection and identification and demonstrates the credibility of PPQ's diagnostic determinations to stakeholders through an independent auditing and accreditation process.

The members of this team utilized several scientific and quality management disciplines to push the initiative to success. Since this had never been achieved by a plant diagnostic laboratory, the team sought out information on how to meet the requirements and train laboratory staff on the required processes. To meet the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 International Standard, the Beltsville Laboratory had to meet approximately 176 specific requirements, all of which require a document or a process to fulfill the requirement.

#### **Members of the team**

1. Patrick Shiel, National Plant Protection Laboratory Accreditation Program (NPPLAP) Coordinator
2. Mark Nakhla, Laboratory Director
3. Ashlee Barth, Biologist, Quality Assurance Specialist
4. Vessela Mavrodieva, Biologist, NPPLAP Proficiency Testing Program Manager
5. Laurene Levy, National Scientific Technologies Coordinator
6. Renee DeVries, Agriculturalist
7. Kathy Burch, Quality Manager/Training Coordinator
8. Geoffrey Dennis, Research Assistant
9. Charla Hollingsworth, National Science Director
10. Deric Picton, Lab Manager